

REMARKS:Claims 1-8, 28

Claims 1-8 and 28 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasiraj (US5777815) in view of Ishiyama (US2003/0067705).

Applicants respectfully disagree that Kasiraj analyzes both current information and historical information to predict a shock. In the sections of Kasiraj cited in the rejection, the system determines whether a shock occurred by comparing the MR output to a predetermined threshold value. (Col. 6, lines 18-21.) The value of the threshold control signal is calibrated when the disk drive is assembled. (Col. 6, lines 29-32.) This indicates that only present data from the shock detection circuit is used. Nowhere does Kasiraj indicate that it uses historical environmental information to make a shock prediction.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to require that the information acquisition mechanism is coupled to a housing in which the magnetic disk device is housed. Support for this amendment is found at p. 17, lines 22-23. This positioning of the information acquisition mechanism is not found in the prior art.

Claims 2-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore also believed to be allowable.

Claim 28 is believed to be allowable for the same reason as claim 1.

Claim 13

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitsuhiro (JP 2003-263853) in view of Kasiraj (US5777815).

Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitation of claim 14, which has been indicated as allowable. Accordingly, claim 13 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 22

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over

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Mitsuhiro (JP 2003-263853).

Claim 22 has been amended to require that the histories be accumulated for a specified period of time. Support for this amendment is found on p. 26, lines 14-15. An example of the time period is disclosed at p. 27, line 22 to p. 28, line 3.

Mitsuhiro, in contrast, calculates an acceleration rate, then evacuates the head if the rate exceeds constant value. See paragraphs [0015, 0016]. We interpret that language as meaning an instantaneous change in rate. In other words, as long as the rate doesn't change, nothing happens. If the rate changes, the circuit will detect an instantaneous change in the rate signal and cause the head to evacuate. Similarly, in paragraph [0025], the rate V is compared to a critical rate V_c . This is an instantaneous comparison.

Accordingly, claim 22 is believed to be allowable. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-12, 17-21, 23-27

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate allowance of claims 9-12, 17-21, and 23-27.

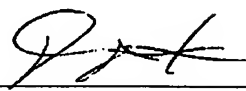
Claims 14-16

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate indication of allowable subject matter in claims 14-16. Claim 14 has been canceled, its limitations being inserted in parent claim 13. Allowance of claims 15-16, which depend from claim 13, is respectfully requested.

In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at (408) 971-2573. For payment of any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2587 (Order No. JP920020150US1).

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Respectfully submitted,

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